Conference on Disarmament

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Report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations

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I. Introduction

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations its annual report on its 2018 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. Organization of the work of the Conference

A. 2018 session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 22 January to 30 March, 14 May to 29 June and 30 July to 14 September 2018. During this period, the Conference held 41 formal plenary meetings, at which member States as well as non-member States invited to participate in the discussions outlined their views and recommendations on the various issues before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 15 informal plenary meetings.

4. The Presidency was assumed in accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres addressed the Conference on Disarmament on 26 February 2018 (CD/PV.1445).

6. Upon the joint invitation of the first President of the Conference, Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the Conference on Disarmament, and of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Michael Møller, the following dignitaries addressed the Conference on Disarmament: Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (CD/PV.1445); Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) (CD/PV.1445); Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the of the UN General Assembly (CD/PV.1445); Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (CD/PV.1446); Mr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabanas, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico (CD/PV.1446); Mr. Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of Myanmar (CD/PV.1446); Mr. Fernando Simas Magalhães, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Political Affairs of Brazil (CD/PV.1446); Mr. Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia (CD/PV.1447); Mr. Alfonso María Dastis, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain (CD/PV.1447); Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal (CD/PV.1447); Ms. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (CD/PV.1447); Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden (CD/PV.1447); Ms. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada (CD/PV.1447); Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt (CD/PV.1447); Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan (CD/PV.1448); Mr. Ivan Korčok, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (CD/PV.1448); Mr. Ciarán Cannon, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (CD/PV.1448); Mr. Manabu Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (CD/PV.1448); Mr. Jorge Arreaza Montessat, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela (CD/PV.1448); Mr. Ahmet Yildiz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey (CD/PV.1449); Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (CD/PV.1449); Mr. Golam Hossein Dehghani, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs of Iran (CD/PV.1449); Mr. George Ciamba, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (CD/PV.1449); Mr. Luwellyn Tyrone Landers, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa (CD/PV.1449). Upon the invitation of the fifth President of the Conference, Mr. Walid Doudech, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Ms. Karin Kneissl, Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria (CD/PV.1463) and Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and

Compliance of the United States, Dr. Yleem D.S. Poblete (CD/PV.1465) addressed the Conference on Disarmament.

7. The substantive secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament was composed as follows: Mr. Michael Møller, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Anja Kaspersen, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the Geneva Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs; Ms. Silvia Mercogliano, Senior Political Affairs Officer and Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament (until 31 March 2018) and Mr. Marco Kalbusch, Senior Political Affairs Officer and Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament (as of 1 April 2018).

B. Participants in the work of the Conference

8. The representatives of the following 65 member States participated in the work of the Conference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

C. Attendance and participation of States not members of the Conference

9. In accordance with the rules of procedure and the decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036), the Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from 45 States not members of the Conference. Accordingly, the Conference invited the following non-member States to participate in its work: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Togo, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

D. Agenda and programme of work for the 2018 session

10. At its 1434th plenary meeting on 23 January 2018, following a debate in which the content of the draft agenda presented by the President of the Conference, Mr. Ravinatha Pandukabhaya Aryasinha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka was reviewed in accordance with rule 29 of the rules of procedure, the Conference on Disarmament adopted its agenda for the 2018 session (CD/PV.1434). The agenda (CD/2116) read as follows:

"Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and deciding to resume its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 2018 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.
2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.
3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. Transparency in armaments.

8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

11. Subsequently, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as the President of the Conference, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda. The Conference will also take into consideration rules 27 and 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference."

12. Pursuant to paragraph 56 of the 2017 report of the Conference (CD/2112), the last President of the 2017 session (Spain) and the first President of the 2018 session (Sri Lanka), conducted informal consultations during the intersessional period with a view to commencing early substantive work during the 2018 session of the Conference.

13. At the 1442nd plenary meeting on 16 February 2018, the Conference adopted decision CD/2119, submitted by the President of the Conference, Mr. Ravinatha Pandukabhaya Aryasinha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, which reads as follows:

"*The Conference on Disarmament*,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I),

Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus,

Convinced that disarmament and arms limitations, particularly in the nuclear field, contributes to the prevention of the danger of nuclear war and strengthening of international peace and security,

Taking into account developments in the field of international peace and security of concern to the Conference,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2116,

Noting that the agenda continues to provide the opportunity to address contemporary disarmament and international security challenges,

Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda,

Taking into account the several proposals tabled since 2000 for the programme of work of the Conference and the interest to see the Conference return to substantive work,

Conscious of the need to conduct its work in a balanced and comprehensive manner,

Without prejudice to the right of any member State of the Conference to raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference at a plenary and to further decisions that may be taken on substantive work,

And without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Conference and the responsibilities entrusted to the President under the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular rule 29 for drawing up the programme of work of the Conference,

Cognizant of the complex nature of the issues under its purview and the wide range of perspectives thereon,

Seeking to advance the substantive work of the Conference in fulfilment of its mandate in accordance with SSOD I,

Decides:

1. To establish, in accordance with Paragraph 23 of its rules of procedure, subsidiary bodies on agenda items 1 (one) to 4 (four), and one on agenda items 5 (five), 6 (six) and 7 (seven), which could also consider emerging and other issues relevant to substantive work of the Conference. In their work the subsidiary bodies would pursue the following areas and any other areas agreed by the subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the rules of procedure:

(a) To reach an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference on Disarmament by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future;

(b) Deepening technical discussions and broadening areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts;

(c) Consider effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations;

2. Each subsidiary body will be chaired by a coordinator appointed by the Conference, under the guidance of the President on the basis of equitable regional distribution;

3. The subsidiary bodies shall meet in accordance with paragraph 24 of the rules of procedure, and shall conduct their work in accordance with paragraph 18 of the rules of procedure, with even allocation of time;

4. In accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure, the subsidiary bodies shall remain open to all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those non Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2018 session;

5. The report on the progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body would be submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations;

6. This decision is taken for the 2018 session, without prejudice to any subsequent decision at the beginning of the next annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament."

14. At the 1455th plenary meeting on 27 March 2018 the Conference adopted decision CD/2126, submitted by the President of the Conference, Ms. Sabrina Dallafior, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament, on the appointment of the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies and the timetable of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, which reads as follows:

"*The Conference on Disarmament*,

In accordance with Paragraph 23 of its rules of procedure and *in pursuance* of its decision CD/2119 to establish subsidiary bodies,

Decides:

1. On the basis of equitable geographic distribution, to appoint the following coordinators of the subsidiary bodies:

- Subsidiary body 1: Cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament H.E. Mr Hasan Kleib, Ambassador of Indonesia;

- Subsidiary body 2: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters
  H.E. Mr Robbert Jan Gabrielse, Ambassador of the Netherlands;

- Subsidiary body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space
  H.E. Mr Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador of Brazil;

- Subsidiary body 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
  H.E. Mr Michael Biontino, Ambassador of Germany;

- Subsidiary body 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons — Comprehensive programme of disarmament — Transparency in armament — Emerging and other issues relevant to the substantive work of the Conference could also be considered, in accordance with CD/2119
  H.E. Mr Yury Ambrazevich, Ambassador of Belarus;

2. That the subsidiary bodies will meet in accordance with the timetable annexed to this decision."

E. Expansion of the membership of the Conference

15. The question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

16. Since 1982, requests for membership have been received from the following 27 non-members, in chronological order: Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czechia, Costa Rica, Denmark, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Libya, Armenia, Thailand, Georgia, Jordan, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Serbia, Republic of Moldova and Qatar.

F. Review of the agenda of the Conference

17. The review of the agenda of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

G. Improved and effective functioning of the Conference

18. The improved and effective functioning of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

H. Communications from non-governmental organizations

19. During the general debate, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the Conference's interaction with civil society. Their views are duly reflected in the plenary records of the Conference.

III. Substantive work of the Conference during its 2018 session

20. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations affirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda items. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

21. The list of documents issued by the Conference, as well as the texts of those documents, are included as Appendix I to this report. An index of the verbatim records, by country and by subject, listing the statements made by delegations during 2018 and the verbatim records of the formal plenary meetings of the Conference, is attached as Appendix II to this report.

22. The Conference had before it a letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the resolutions and decisions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session in 2017, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament (CD/2115).

A. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament

23. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

24. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 1, Cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament, coordinated by H.E. Mr Hasan Kleib, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia, met on 25 June (afternoon); 26 June (afternoon); 31 July (afternoon; 2 August (morning and afternoon); 3 August (morning) and 9 August (afternoon).

B. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters

25. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

26. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 2, Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, coordinated by H.E. Mr Robert Jan Gabriëlse, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, met on 15 May (afternoon); 16 May (afternoon); 27 June (afternoon); 28 June (morning and afternoon); 29 June (morning) and 7 August (afternoon).

C. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

27. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

28. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 3, Prevention of an arms race in outer space, coordinated by H.E. Mr Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador and Special Representative of Brazil, met on 23 May (afternoon); 25 May (morning); 5 June (afternoon); 6 June (afternoon); 7 June (morning and afternoon); and 24 August (morning).

D. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

29. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

30. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 4, Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, coordinated by H.E. Mr Michael Biontino, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany, met on 22 May (afternoon); 24 May (morning);

11 June (afternoon); 12 June (afternoon); 13 June (afternoon); 14 June (afternoon) and 22 August (afternoon).

E. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons

31. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

32. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 5, New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons — Comprehensive programme of disarmament Transparency in armament — Emerging and other issues relevant to the substantive work of the Conference could also be considered, in accordance with CD/2119, coordinated by H.E. Mr Yury Ambrazevich, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belarus, met on 17 May (afternoon); 18 May (morning); 19 June (afternoon); 20 June (afternoon); 21 June (morning and afternoon); and 23 August (afternoon).

F. Comprehensive programme of disarmament

33. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

34. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 5, New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons — Comprehensive programme of disarmament — Transparency in armament — Emerging and other issues relevant to the substantive work of the Conference could also be considered, in accordance with CD/2119, coordinated by H.E. Mr Yury Ambrazevich, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belarus, met on 17 May (afternoon); 18 May (morning); 19 June (afternoon); 20 June (afternoon); 21 June (morning and afternoon); and 23 August (afternoon).

G. Transparency in armaments

35. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

36. As per the decision adopted by the Conference (CD/2126), subsidiary body 5, New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons — Comprehensive programme of disarmament — Transparency in armament — Emerging and other issues relevant to the substantive work of the Conference could also be considered, in accordance with CD/2119, coordinated by H.E. Mr Yury Ambrazevich, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belarus, met on 17 May (afternoon); 18 May (morning); 19 June (afternoon); 20 June (afternoon); 21 June (morning and afternoon); and 23 August (afternoon).

H. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Conference and any other report as appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations

37. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2019 session would be:

First part: 21 January – 29 March

38. The annual report to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 14 September 2018, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Ms. Beliz Celasin Rende, Chargée d'Affaires *ad interim*
Turkey
President of the Conference